

USAR_J-14_Toshie Sasada

She was answering in English...

13:13:07:17

I was born in Taichung, Taiwan, and I had lived there till I was four years old. Then, we started talking about coming back to Japan. Our own home country seemed so appealing to us. But my brother and sister went to school (Kokumin Gakko) there, so I stayed there till I became four years old. There was a papaya tree near my house, and the lady at the next door picked up some of papayas for me. I picked them up on the ground and ate them. Later on, when I first went to Singapore on a business trip and saw papayas, they reminded me of those times. In Japan, papayas are very expensive. I had those memories. Then, we arrived at Keelung, Taipei city. I remember my father came to pick us up there from Taichung. The house where we lived was made by Chinese people and it was magnificent. Later, long time after the war had ended, we went to see our house, and it was still there.

13:14:49:03

I was there till four years old. I didn't actually remember everything, but I remember how magnificent the house was. There was a river in front of the house. When I was playing by the river, I fell into it. There was another big river down there, and then, my father pulled me out of the river right before it ran into the big river. I remember the incident. Those are my memories in Taiwan. I remember there was a tobacco factory near my house. When I was in my forties and visited Taichung with my friend, my mother drew me a map to get to the house. Then, when I got there, the same house was still there.

13:15:47:06

I was in Taiwan from 1938 to 1942, for four years. The attack on Pearl Harbor happened when I was in Taiwan. I was three years old at that time. I don't remember the attack itself. Nothing. When I visited the U.S. in the 1980's, I saw USS Arizona for the first time. Looking at it, I thought Captain Fuchida attacked on it. Though I still haven't got it, I heard that the U.S. already cracked the code.

13:16:46:20

I was in Taiwan till four years old. Then, I went to Hakata, Kyusyu in Japan. When I was around five or six years old, we went to Busan in Korea, because of my father's business.

13:17:14:17

We came back to Japan by ship. When we were about to get board on a ship, we were almost split into two groups. But my father told them, "We are a

family and we should be all together." Then, we arrived at Hakata all together. We stayed there for several months, and left for Busan because of my father's business.

13:17:36:04

Later I heard about the story that we were almost separated. That's why I remember it. I don't remember the trip from Hakata to Busan. When I visited Korea later, I took the same course as we had gone there at that time. I just felt nostalgic about it.

13:18:04:22

When I got back to Japan and I was around six years old, the war had already started. Our ship arrived safely. But a ship which had many students on a school trip sank on its way from Taiwan and Fukuoka, and hundreds of students died.

13:18:34:06

I heard about the news later. I heard about those news later.

13:18:42:22

All I remember about the time when I was back in Japan was sirens. I was seven years old. That's all I remember. Sirens in Hakata.

13:19:00:08

Big cities, such as Yokohama, Fukuoka, Miyazaki and so on, had air raids.

13:19:13:21

During those air raids, we were in an air-raid shelter. That's why we survived.

13:19:26:16

Then, I was in Busan, Korea. I was around five or six years old. I went to kindergarten there. Then I came back to Hakata around six years old. It was right before the end of the war.

13:19:48:14

I knew about the Korean War later. After all, the reason why we went to Taiwan and Korea was that Japan invaded China. Sad to say, Japan considered it as a part of the nation, and colonized Korea. I hesitated to say that we were in Taiwan and Korea at that time. Japanese people forced them to change their names to Japanese ones, and took them to Japan as labor. I am very glad that Japan and Korea get along well now. I want to apologize to them. Our church often sends a group of people to Korea to express our regret. We are still doing so. We get along with each other pretty well now.

13:21:19:16

In Korea, my brother and sister went to school.

13:21:29:22

A tense atmosphere was felt everywhere. When they went to school, though I didn't go yet, they had to cross a bridge. There was a big river, and the bridge opened when a ship passed by. Unless they crossed the bridge before it opened, they would be later for school. So they ran hard. I remember that. When I went to kindergarten, there were steps. I thought they were pretty steep. But when I visited it later, they were actually small steps. But when I was little, they looked like steep steps.

13:22:36:16

There were not only Japanese people. I guess that there were Japanese people less than a half of the population. Because it was Korea. Japan trampled on it.

13:22:50:00

I don't remember... I think we had some Korean kids in my kindergarten. I learned some Korean but I don't remember anything anymore. My teacher was Japanese, because we could understand only Japanese. Many Japanese moved to China at that time. They became teachers, doctors, lawyers, and so on, and they lived self-importantly in China.

13:23:31:20

The kindergarten at that time was different from now. It is a fun place now, playing games. At that time, my lunch box, well, when our servant didn't show up to get me at the kindergarten, I started walking home by myself. On my way home, I dropped my lunch box in a river. Then, he picked it up for me. All maids and servants were Korean at that time.

13:24:22:21

Every time a teacher said the word, "Emperor," in a classroom, we had to straighten up. We did that, when I was the second grade in an elementary school.

13:25:00:22

We didn't do that in a kindergarten. We had to in an elementary school.

She started speaking in English again...

13:30:47:18